

Title: The Hoover Award

I. Former President Herbert Hoover as Chairman of the Commission on Organization of the Executive Branch of the Government directed that a Task Force study the Role of Records Management in the Federal Service. The Task Force report dated 13 January 1949 recommended that a law cited as the Federal Records Management Act be enacted. Another recommendation required that each department and Agency of the United States Government be required to establish a Records Management Program. These proposals presented to the Congress resulted in the Federal Records Act, Public Law 754 of 1950. Mr. Hoover further persuaded Congress, and, his successors to the Presidency of the United States, by later studies, to again concern themselves with the serious problem of managing government records. In 1955 Mr. Hoover's Task Forces on Paperwork Management estimated that a quarter of a billion dollars could be saved annually by a government wide Paperwork Management Program. With the savings 250,000 families could make \$1000 down payments on new homes each year.

II. The magnitude of this problem was further highlighted by this example from one of the Hoover reports. "Several records wholly comprised a single operation such as book keeping in the last Century. Now this same process is divided and subdivided into anywhere from a score to hundreds of component records as a result of specialization, the drive to get things done faster and cheaper or better." Currently the situation is that for every 4 pieces of paper created 30 years ago, 1000 are created today.

III. The first Task Force report of 12 years ago may be considered an experiment by amateurs to the field, but the experiment has resulted in hundreds of thousands of dollars in savings to the United States. Probably no other individual has been so keenly aware of nor had the courage to point out to the Congress these areas of gross inefficiency and waste. There is a need then to give public acclaim to the contributions of Mr. Hoover. President Kennedy has said "If all of us can share but a small part of President Hoover's unselfish dedication, then continued progress is ours."

IV. The suggested award would then be presented to an individual whose contribution to the Paper Work Management Field is outstanding and worthy of this honorable association.

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V. These are several other awards presented annually to Federal employees who excell in their field such as the Arthur S. Fleming Award for Outstanding Civil Service, the Stockberger Award given for Outstanding Work in Federal Personnel Administration and the more recent Federal Woman's Award established in 1960.

Suggested Routing for Evaluation:

House of the Buret
Civil Service Commission
National Archives and Records Service, GSA
Federal Records Council, GSA
Post Office and Civil Service Committee
Senate Committee on Government Operations
Joint Committee on Disposition of Executive Papers